

Message Text

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43

ACTION IO-10

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FM AMCONSUL MONTREAL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6988

UNCLAS MONTREAL 1883

E.O. 11652: N.A.

TAGS: PORG, EAIR, ICAO

SUBJECT: ICAO, ELECTION OF KOTAITE AS NEW COUNCIL PRESIDENT

1. SUMMARY: SECGEN KOTAITE OF LEBANON ELECTED PRESIDENT
25 TO 5. WILL TAKE OFFICE AT DATE TO BE SET BY COUNCIL
WHEN NEW SECRETARY GENERAL ELECTED (APRIL).

2. AT BEGINNING OF CLOSED MEETING PRESIDENT SUSPENDED
RULE 39 OF PROCEDURES IN ORDER TO PERMIT OBSERVER FROM
GHANA TO SPEAK AT APPROPRIATE TIME.

3. SWEDEN GAVE STATEMENT ON LIMITING TENURE OF
PRESIDENT'S TERMS IN FUTURE (REF MONTREAL 1829).

4. PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED THAT RULE 8 OF PROCEDURES WAS
APPLICABLE AND HE INTENDED TO APPLY RULE 9 FOR
SPECIFICS (RULES FOR ELECTING VICE-PRESIDENTS). HE
ALSO MENTIONED RULE 41.

5. EGYPT THEN NOMINATED KOTAITE. THERE WERE SUPPORTING
STATEMENTS FROM LEBANON, SPAIN AND USSR. MOROCCO ALSO
STATED TERSELY THAT HE WISHED TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH OTHER
SUPPORTS.

6. GHANA'S HIGH COMMISSIONER THEN GAVE SHORT STATEMENT
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REFERRING TO DWEMOH'S CANDIDACY ON BEHALF OF OAU BUT

NOTING THAT EGYPT WAS A MEMBER OF OAU AND HAD ALREADY PROPOSED KOTAITE. HE SAID THEREFORE THAT IF OAU STATES HAD NO OBJECTION GHANA WAS WITHDRAWING THE DWEMOH CANDIDACY. BRAZIL IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWED WITH EXCELLENT STATEMENT COMPLIMENTING DWEMOH'S WITHDRAWAL IN THE INTEREST OF UNANIMITY. SENEGAL ASSOCIATED ITSELF WITH GHANA AND WITH THE PROPOSAL OF EGYPT (KOTAITE). KENYA ASSOCIATED WITH GHANA. EGYPT THANKED THE HIGH COMMISSIONER OF GHANA FOR HIS STATEMENT. COLOMBIA ASSOCIATED WITH EGYPT AND WITH BRAZIL.

7. AT THIS POINT SWEDEN NOMINATED WILLOCH IN A SHORT STATEMENT. THERE WERE NO SUPPORT OR SECONDING STATEMENTS.

8. NIGERIA ASKED ABOUT SECGENSHIP VACANCY IF WE ELECTED "ONE OF THE TWO CANDIDATES" AND ASKED FOR INFORMATION ON THE PROCEDURE TO FOLLOW FROM THE STANDPOINT OF ANY RIDERS THAT MIGHT BE PUT ON THE RESPECTIVE CANDIDACIES. PRESIDENT BINAGHI RESPONDED THAT ONLY ONE THEN WAS SURE: THE NEW PRESIDENT WILL END A TERM IN 1977 WHEN THE NEXT ASSEMBLY ELECTS A THREE YEAR PRESIDENT. BINAGHI SAID WE SHOULD DISCUSS THE TAKING OVER OF THE PRESIDENCY AFTER TODAY'S ELECTION. THE BALLOTING RESULTED IN 25 FOR KOTAITE AND 5 FOR WILLOCH.

9. EGYPT THEN DISCUSSED THE ON-GOING PROCEDURE. HE SAID IT WOULD BE CUSTOMARY TO APPOINT AN ACTING SECGEN UNTIL THE END OF APRIL WHEN THE NEW SECGEN WILL BE ELECTED HOWEVER THIS WOULD BE ONE OF THE BUREAU DIRECTORS AND THEY CANNOT BE SPARED FROM THEIR REGULAR WORK FOR SUCH A PERIOD. HE SUGGESTED THAT PRESIDENT BINAGHI REMAIN UNTIL THAT TIME, AND MADE A FORMAL PROPOSAL THAT KOTAITE TAKE OVER AT A DATE TO BE DETERMINED BY THE COUNCIL AFTER IT APPOINTS A NEW SECGEN. PAKISTAN FORMALLY SUPPORTED THE EGYPTIAN PROPOSAL. LEBANON, MOROCCO, ARGENTINA ASSOCIATED WITH IT. THE PROPOSAL WAS ACCEPTED WITHOUT FURTHER COMMENT AND NIGERIA FURTHER STATED THAT THIS ANSWERED HIS QUESTION ON PROCEDURE.

10. BINAGHI THEN ESCORTED KOTAITE INTO THE COUNCIL CHAMBER. THERE WAS MEDIOCRE APPLAUSE AND NO ONE STOOD UP (CONTRARY TO UNCLASSIFIED

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THE CUSTOM FOLLOWING PAST ELECTIONS OF PRESIDENT AND SECGEN).
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